

Agenda Item 7

Redesign of Residential Care - Torwoodhall



Falkirk Integration Joint Board

4 September 2020

Redesign of Residential Care - Torwoodhall

For Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The HSCP Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan recognise the need to review and redesign bed based care in our communities, including in our care homes. This will include a review of the type and number of bed based care required. Where care home beds are necessary, this will focus on improving outcomes for residents by improving the environment and subsequently improving care.
- 1.2 We need to continue to improve the quality and consistency of care for our residents and service users, based on communication with them, their carers and families to identify how we can best meet their needs. This will include access to independent advocacy as required.
- 1.3 The HSCP have four in-house residential care homes across the localities and one Intermediate Care Facility. We recognise that we need to improve the environment of some of our residential care homes. We need to ensure that all our services can meet the needs of our current residents and the future needs of our local citizens, while keeping them safe. This in particular, has been at the forefront to meet the challenges from the current and any future pandemic.
- 1.4 Torwoodhall is one of our oldest buildings in which residential care is provided. Due to the layout and style of the building it is more difficult to provide care that meets current and future requirements for infection control.
- 1.5 There is now an element of urgency required to review Torwoodhall that will consider the provision of this care in alternative settings.

2. Recommendations

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- 2.1 support a review of Torwoodhall that will consider the current resident's needs, and the provision of care in alternative settings
- 2.2 note that this work will include engagement with residents and families, supported by independent advocacy where required, and staff
- 2.3 note that a report will be brought back to the IJB in November.

3. Background

- 3.1 The HSCP Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan previously approved by the Board, recognises the need to review and redesign our provision of care homes. The recent response to Covid-19 and the additional requirements on Care Homes for infection prevention and control will inform the review. The main focus of the review is on improving outcomes for residents including improving the environment. We also need to consider the safe working environment and impact for staff working there too.
- 3.2 The impact of the pandemic on care homes has been significant. The HSCP and Care Home providers have been faced with a major challenge of trying to continue to manage the needs and welfare of residents and staff whilst protecting and safe guarding them from Coronavirus. This has required the implementation of a robust care assurance system, supporting the implementation of all relevant Scottish Government Guidance and providing supportive care assurance visits. Vigilant infection control measures have been key to reducing the spread of the virus, which includes the correct use of PPE, but also the requirement to create “zones” within the buildings. In some care home buildings, this has been possible, but in Torwoodhall, the building cannot accommodate safe zoning.
- 3.3 The impact of Covid-19 has affected many of our resources, in particular the residential care home sector has been nationally recognised as a challenge.
- 3.4 Care Homes are a particularly difficult area to manage and protect during an outbreak, given the nature of the virus and the particular risk it poses to older people and those with underlying health conditions. Care homes by their very nature, are not clinical settings, rather homely settings for vulnerable people to receive care and support. Continued action needs to be taken to maintain infection prevention and control measures to limit the spread of the virus to our older most vulnerable adults.

4. Review of Torwoodhall Care Home

- 4.1 The HSCP has been working closely with NHS Forth Valley, Public Health, the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO), Scottish Care and the Care Inspectorate and all care homes across the area to provide support, advice and guidance to our care homes, and assurances to Scottish Government in respect of policy, practice, procedures and statutory guidance. The Assurance and Oversight arrangements have previously been reported to the IJB in June 2020.
- 4.2 Assurance visits have been carried out with Health and Social Work to assess and support the standard of care being delivered within care homes across Falkirk during the pandemic. These visits follow a critique which inspects the following:
 - Infection control

- Promotion of clean areas/ PPE stations
- Zoning of care home facilities to ensure minimal spread of Covid-19 if a resident is positive.
- The use of ReSPECT documents /DNR/AWI

- 4.3 As part of the Torwoodhall assurance process by health and social work practitioners this identified concerns over the age of the building and the extensive improvements which would need to be implemented to assist in managing care during a pandemic. The structure of the building makes it impossible to facilitate social distancing, identify and promote zoning to prevent cross infection.
- 4.4 Despite the shortcomings of the building, Torwoodhall staff have worked hard to manage the situation, with all infection prevention and control measures in place. To date the care home has had no confirmed cases of Covid-19 and remains “green” on the Public Health Assurance table. However, we must look ahead to maintain this position and prevent a potential situation arising.
- 4.5 A Care Inspectorate inspection in January 2020, graded Torwoodhall as 5 for supporting wellbeing and for care and support planning. They did not inspect the environment during this inspection, and did not inspect the environment in 2019 or 2018.
- 4.6 The other internal care homes within Falkirk do not have the same level of environmental risks in relation to a coronavirus outbreak.
- 4.7 Due to changes in the way the partnership delivers care in the community, supporting more people to stay at home, the partnership currently has a high number of care homes vacancies for older adults. This provides the opportunity to redesign our care homes whilst recognising the importance of encouraging independence by focussing on reablement, rehabilitation and recovery. This facilitates our older adults the opportunity to stay at home longer with alternative supports at home whilst individualising care packages.
- 4.8 The Chief Officer report sets out the Capacity Planning work, facilitated by Buchan Associates, that has started. This work will consider the bed based capacity requirements in the community hospital and care homes. This work is anticipated to conclude in September 2020 and will be reported to a future meeting of the IJB. However taking into account the immediate issues with Torwoodhall, the Board is asked to support a review of the care home that will consider the current resident’s needs, and the provision of care in alternative settings.
- 4.9 This will be undertaken through extensive engagement and consultation with all residents, their families and carers on the potential closure of Torwoodhall. This process will also be an opportunity to explore alternative care settings to meet individual needs that will improve the outcomes and provide a better environment for residents. The review will ensure that each

resident is able to give fully informed views supported by independent advocacy where required. If following the consultation, the decision is made to close the home, residents will be supported to make fully informed choices to meet their needs.

- 4.10 The partnership are confident that all staff currently working in Torwoodhall would be accommodated in posts through redeployment.
- 4.11 Consultation with the trade unions will take place as well as 1:1 meetings with each employee and HR during the review of our in-house services in line with Engagement Strategy Policy. The Home First Manager would lead on this piece of work including review the internal services.
- 4.12 An Equality Poverty Impact Assessment will be completed as an essential part of the review of Torwoodhall and the review of our other care homes to ensure that the needs of all the current and future residents are taken into account during the development and change of the service

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 A review of care homes in Falkirk will enable the partnership to provide responsive person centred care and improve outcomes for residents within a better environment. The proposed review of Torwoodhall will enable the residents to explore better accommodation and facilities to meet their care needs.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that continuity of care delivered by staff known to residents will continue where this is possible. This will be dependent on the individual outcomes identified for each resident, and will aim to provide support, reassurance and care.
- 5.3 Consultation and engagement will take place with each resident and family and staff.

Resource Implications

There are no budget implications arising from this report on the assumption that residents remain in internal care homes. This is dependent on the outcome of individual reviews and it is anticipated that any additional costs will be managed within existing budgets. The outcome of the review and any resource implications will be reported to the next IJB meeting in November 2020.

Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The review of residential care home provision is in line with the Strategic Plan and the local Delivery Plan previously agreed by the IJB.

Legal & Risk Implications

There is an obligation to consult with residents prior to taking a decision on whether to close the home. The decision will engage the residents' rights

under Art 8 of the ECHR.

Consultation

Consultation and engagement will be carried out with residents and families. This will be done in a person centred way to fulfil individuals needs and outcomes whilst explaining the rationale behind the review.

Consultation will take place with staff /HR and Trade Unions. No jobs will be at risk as existing posts will be absorbed within existing care home services.

Equalities Assessment

An EPIA will be completed in line with the Equality Act 2010 for the IJB information.

6. Report Author

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7. Appendices

n/a